



# *Milwaukee County*

Supervisor Joseph A. Rice, 6<sup>th</sup> District

Chairman, Code of Ethics Study Committee

For Immediate Release October 18, 2007

Contact: Harold Mester, Public Information Manager

414/278-4051 or [harold.mester@milwcnty.com](mailto:harold.mester@milwcnty.com)

## **CODE OF ETHICS STUDY COMMITTEE RELEASES FINAL REPORT**

*Final Report available to public on Supervisor Rice's website*

**Milwaukee, WI** – The Milwaukee County Code of Ethics Study Committee, under the leadership of Milwaukee County Supervisor Joseph A. Rice, has released a final report detailing recommended changes to Milwaukee County's Code of Ethics.

The Code of Ethics Study Committee was established in June 2006 to study the Milwaukee County Code of Ethics, research similar codes in other counties and report recommendations to the County Board. The code provisions reinforce the need for fair and impartial decision-making while avoiding the use of public office for personal gain.

Members of the Committee included Supervisor Rice (Committee Chairman), Mr. Robert Andrews, Mr. Rick Ceschin, Ms. Hannah Dugan, Mr. Charles Mulcahy, and Dr. Joan Prince. In September, the Committee held a public hearing on code recommendations at Marquette University Law School where it collected valuable input from the members of the general public, as well as public officials and employees.

“The Code of Ethics Study Committee was established on my initiative in an effort to address Ethics Code deficiencies and restore public confidence in the integrity of the county government,” Supervisor Rice said. The committee's recommendations include the following:

- Adopt a new appointment process for the Milwaukee County Ethics Board to remove political considerations.
- Establish new rules banning political activity while engaged in official business.
- Create a “culture of compliance” by redefining ethical behavior.
- Establish a new protocol in cooperation with the Milwaukee County District Attorney's office, to identify suspected criminal violations.
- Encourage settlements in the investigation and hearing process to avoid long and expensive adversarial proceedings.
- Establish a robust ethics education and training component for all county officials.
- Provide sufficient budgetary resources to the Ethics Board and staff to administer and enforce the law.

To view the final report, log on to Supervisor Rice's website [www.milwaukee.gov/rice](http://www.milwaukee.gov/rice) and click on “What's New.”

###